

# Corporation for National and Community Service

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## DISASTER SERVICES UPDATE 8/7/12

### **WESTERN WILDFIRES**

Approximately 200 AmeriCorps members and RSVP volunteers deployed to fight wildfires, manage volunteers and donations, operate emergency shelters, and support call centers in Colorado, New Mexico and Utah since late June. Members of AmeriCorps NCCC, AmeriCorps VISTA, AmeriCorps State & National, and RSVP programs are working with federal, state, and local government agencies, the American Red Cross, the United Way, Adventist Community Services, and other organizations. Additional teams are being deployed as conditions evolve.

### FORT COLLINS, CO

**NEW** AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Region

*August 6<sup>th</sup>*

Fire 9, an eleven member team has deployed to Fort Collins to assist Adventist Community Services with donations distribution center operations. Fire 9 will provide center operations maintenance and will assist in expanding the distribution center to provide greater services to the community. This team has extended their term of service in order to serve the Fort Collins community. Fire 9 will end their deployment and their term of service on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **UPDATED** RSVP

*July 30<sup>th</sup>*

In July, 16 RSVP members with 3 Partner Agencies (American Red Cross Centennial Chapter, Catholic Charities of Denver, and Habitat for Humanity) have worked in a direct-response capacity to assist evacuees and survivors of the High Park fire, providing vouchers, case management, necessities, and cleanup.

In addition, 39 RSVP members with a number of other Partners have been working in an indirect response role, working behind the scenes to support organizations who have stepped up to fill in service gaps and provide necessities to evacuees and first responders. The agencies include: HELP International, House of Neighborly Service, Food Bank for Larimer County, Salvation Army, and Bellevue Senior Center.

RSVP has joined the Long Term Recovery coalition in Fort Collins and this effort will have a more comprehensive case management system to track unduplicated clients receiving services from multiple agencies. We should also be able to more easily track how many clients are served by RSVP volunteers working on long-term recovery, whether through one-time projects or as case managers.

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*RSVP Volunteers providing debris removal service on a damaged home in the Fort Collins, CO area.*

## AmeriCorps Spotlight: Gulf Coast YouthBuild Efforts of “Dream Team” Allow Displaced Homeowner to Return Home After Seven Years



YouthBuild is a youth and community development program that simultaneously addresses core issues facing low-income communities: housing, education, employment, crime prevention, and leadership development. Low-income youth work toward their GEDs or high school diplomas, learn job skills and serve their communities by building affordable housing, and transform their own lives and roles in society.

In July, 32 [Gulf Coast YouthBuild](#) AmeriCorps members worked long hours to complete a significant housing rehabilitation project for an elderly man with disabilities who had not been able to return to his home since Hurricane Katrina. When inclement weather and other construction hurdles threatened the project's completion date, AmeriCorps members Jermill Peterson, Justin Lewis, DeMarlo Moses, Troy Hurdle and Courtney Sparkman “got things done,” sometimes working 12-hour days and weekends to ensure the project was completed on schedule. Program Manager Neisha McElveen says, “They sought no personal incentive; but came together as a dedicated team and completed the project, so that the homeowner and his sister could return to the residence.”

### **NEW DISASTER EVENTS**

For information on new disaster events, please visit FEMA's daily situation report at:

<http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/index.shtm>

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## Resources

### **DHS Center for Faith-based & Neighborhood Partnerships Stakeholder Advisory**

*A Center of the White House Office of Faith-based & Neighborhood Partnerships*

Please join Richard Serino, Deputy Administrator of FEMA for the next FEMA Think Tank conference call on August 17, 2012, from Bennington, Vermont.

WHAT: FEMA Think Tank

WHEN: Friday, August 17, 2012, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm (Eastern)

WHERE: Bennington, Vermont

Call In: 888-469-1565

Passcode: Think Tank

**Captioning:** Individuals who would like to access the captioning for this event may do so by following this link: <http://fedrcc.us//Enter.aspx?EventID=1995294&CustomerID=321>

The FEMA Think Tank is a forum to engage the whole community, connect resources and share best practices, and develop solutions to the challenges we face in emergency management. Featured topics have included new technologies in emergency management; disability integration; the importance of integrating healthcare, public health and emergency management; and our most recent call which highlighted how the emergency management community engages public-private partnerships and building for the future.

The focus of this month's call is a unique opportunity to discuss the role of faith-based and community organizations in advancing the whole community approach to emergency management. The relationships of these organizations with the Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinators as part of the National Disaster Recovery Framework and with emergency managers at the local level are important aspects of the dialogue around creating mutually beneficial partnerships. Also, hearing the experiences and best practices of the local faith community responding to and recovering from disasters is of critical importance.

Please visit the [Think Tank Online Forum](#) and share your innovative ideas on how the role of faith-based and community organizations can advance the whole of community approach in emergency management.

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## **How to Engage Your Community in Service Projects Year Round**

**[View Webinar Recording](#)**

**[Download Presentation \(33-page PDF\)](#)**

### **Webinar Overview**

On Tuesday, July 10, FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness Division and Ready.gov presented a FREE Webinar about the importance of community service that trained participants on how to host their own community centered disaster preparedness events. During the presentation, speakers discussed activities and events to organize during National Preparedness Month 2012.

### ***Colorado Wildfire Assistance***

For those interested in assisting those affected by the wildfires in Colorado, please visit: [www.HelpColoradoNow.org](http://www.HelpColoradoNow.org). This website identifies ways to donate time or resources to those in need.

***If you would like to learn more about how you can assist communities affected by disaster visit [www.serve.gov](http://www.serve.gov) or <http://www.fema.gov/rebuild/recover/howtohelp.shtm>. If you would like to learn more about how to prepare your family and or community please visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).***